FIRST NATIONS EXPERTISE IN HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

APRIL 10, 2025

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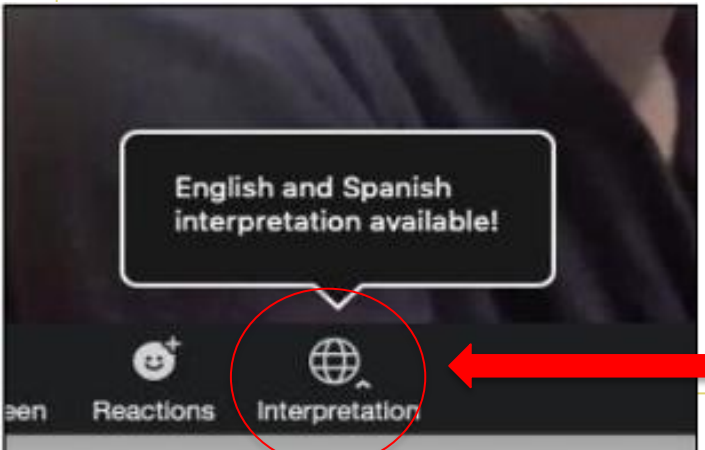
Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources

INTERPRETATION INSTRUCTIONS

Look for the “Interpretation available!” notification on your computer:

1. Click the globe icon in the bottom toolbar.
2. Select your preferred language from the interpretation menu.
3. For interpreter-only audio, click the globe icon and select “Mute original audio”.



OPENING

DR. RAYMOND NECKOWAY

CIER
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Environmental Resources

LESLIE AGGER BSC, MA

PROJECT MANAGER, CIER

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WHO WE ARE

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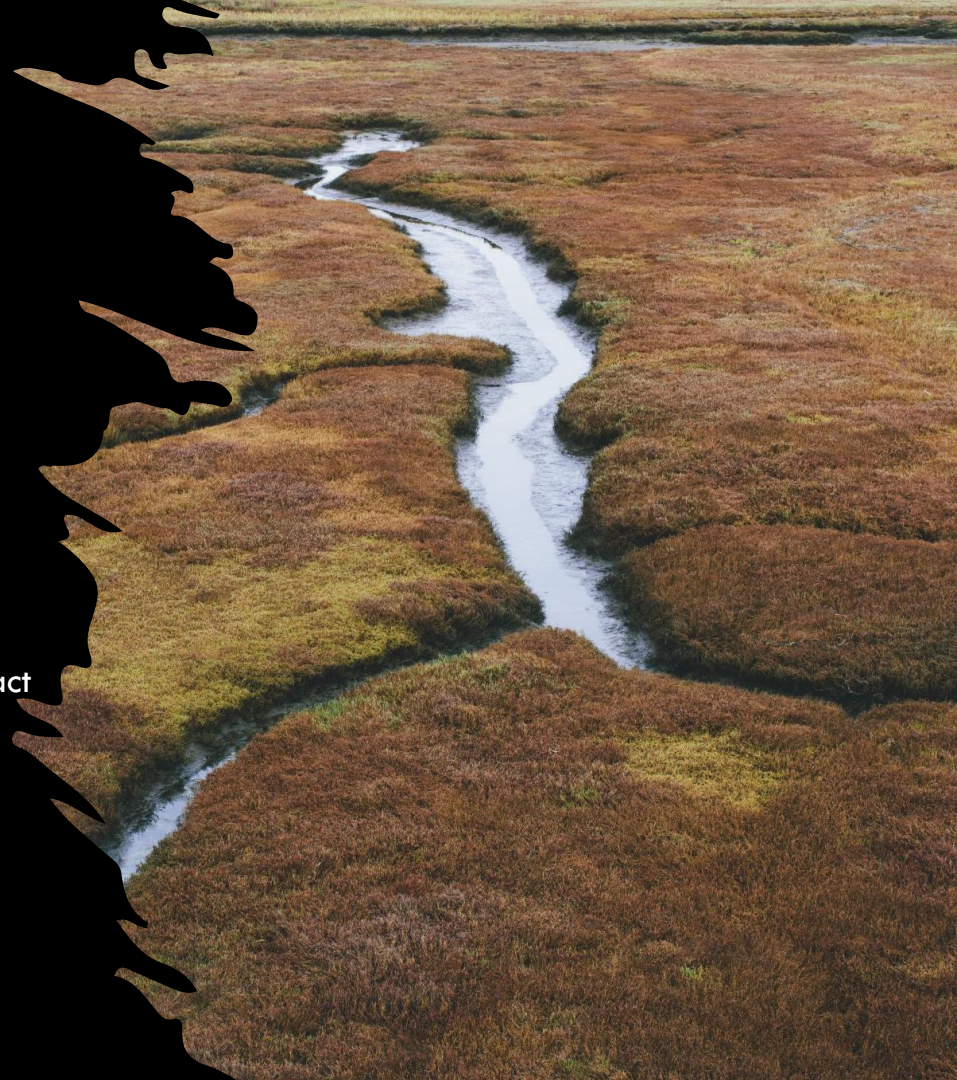
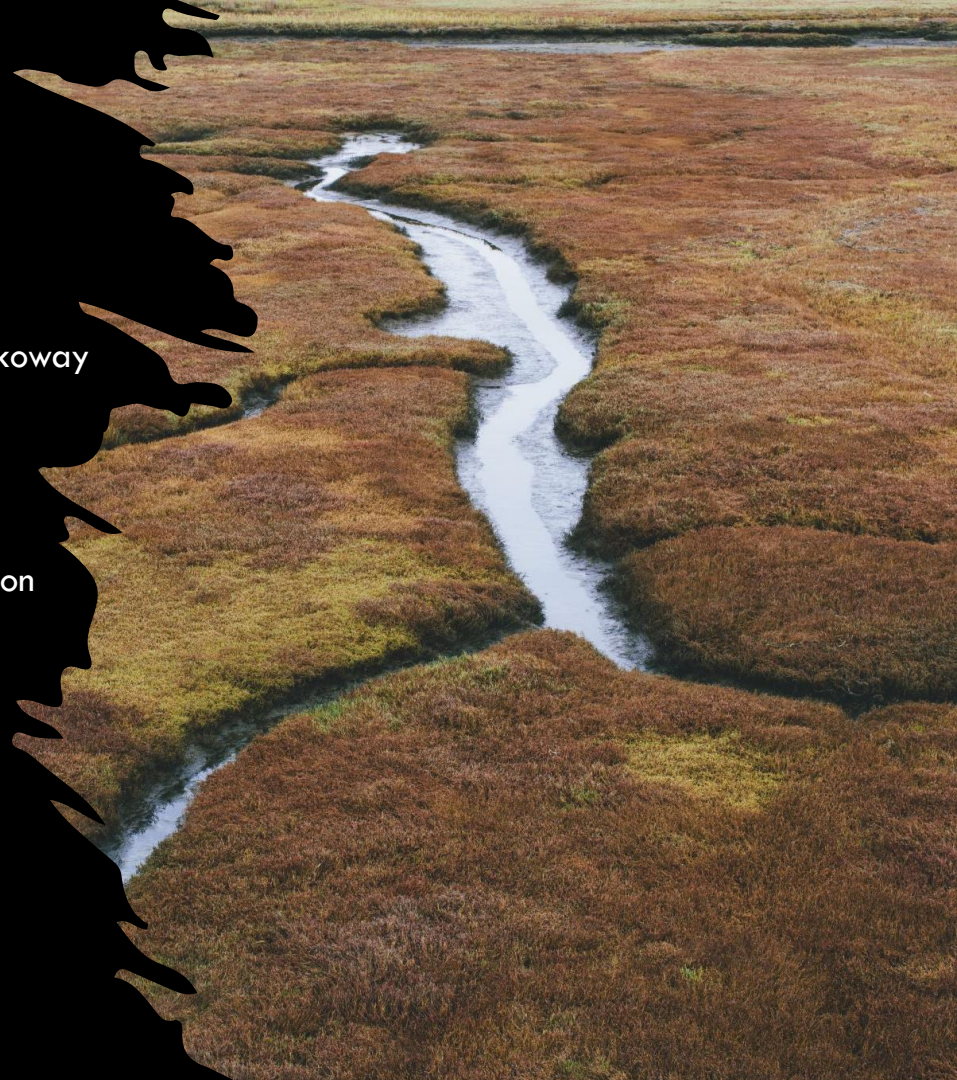
AIMS

1. To showcase First Nations' expertise in health impact assessment.
2. To hear how First Nations health was affected by large-scale industrial and other types of projects.
3. To hear First Nation's perspectives on the supports required to meaningfully participate in federal impact assessment generally & concerning health.



TODAY'S SPEAKERS

12:25 – 1:25	Conway Arthurson & Dr. Raymond Neckoway Fox Lake Cree Nation
1:25 – 1:35	Break
1:35 – 2:00	Samson Wong & Dr. Meghan Brockington First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
2:00 – 2:45	Discussion Period
2:45 – 3:00	Closing Remarks



HOW TO PROVIDE YOUR FEEDBACK

1. Zoom chat
2. Question & answer periods
3. Group discussion period & Poll Everywhere questions
4. Contact CIER

CONWAY ARTHURSON & DR. RAYMOND NECKOWAY

FORMER COUNCILOR, NEGOTIATOR & ADVISOR

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ADVISOR

FOX LAKE CREE NATION

FOX LAKE CREE NATION

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

HEALTH BREAK

RETURN AT 1:35 EST

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SAMSON WONG & DR. MEGHAN BROCKINGTON

SR. PROVINCIAL MANAGER, ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

SR. SPECIALIST IMPACT ASSESSMENT
FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

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Examining the Role of FNHA in Health Impact Assessment

Presented by: Samson Wong, MA, Sr. Provincial Manager, Environmental Public Health Services & Dr. Meghan Brockington, Sr. Specialist Impact Assessment

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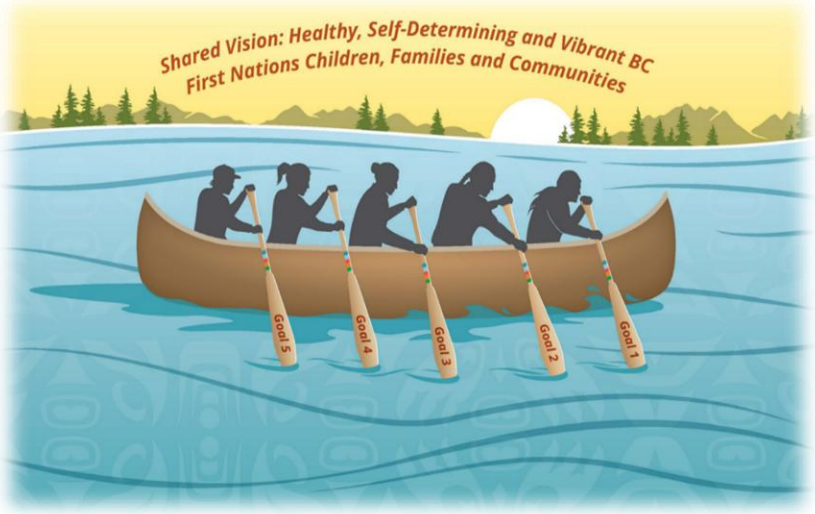
Agenda

- Introductions
- About FNHA
- First Nations Health Governance Structure
- FNHA's approach to work
- EPHS Provincial Team
- Overview of BC EA
- Gaps between policy and practice
- FNHA in Impact Assessment



About FNHA

First Nations Health Authority
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In 2013, the FNHA began a new era in BC First Nations health governance and health care delivery by taking responsibility for the programs and services formerly delivered by Health Canada.

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In 2011 BC First Nations voted to take control of First Nations health services

British Columbia's Cultural Safety and Humility Standard

First Nations Health Governance Structure

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Tripartite Committee on First Nations Health

FNHA | FNHC | FNHDA | REGIONAL TABLES

Indigenous Services Canada | **Ministry of Health** | **Health Authorities**

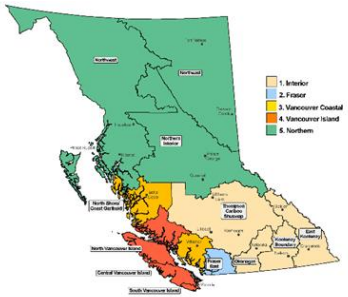
Regional Caucuses appoint FNHC and FNHA members

TCFNH is the forum for reciprocal accountability and joint reporting

First Nations Health Council

& FNHA Members

BC First Nations



Political Leadership & Advocacy

Professional Development & Technical Support

First Nations Health Directors Association

Service Leadership, Partnership & Delivery

FNHA Members appoint FNHA Board of Directors, considering nominations from Regional Caucuses

First Nations Health Authority

First Nations Health Directors appoint the FNHDA Board of Directors

Our Shared Vision & Directives developed by First Nations in BC underpins our collective work

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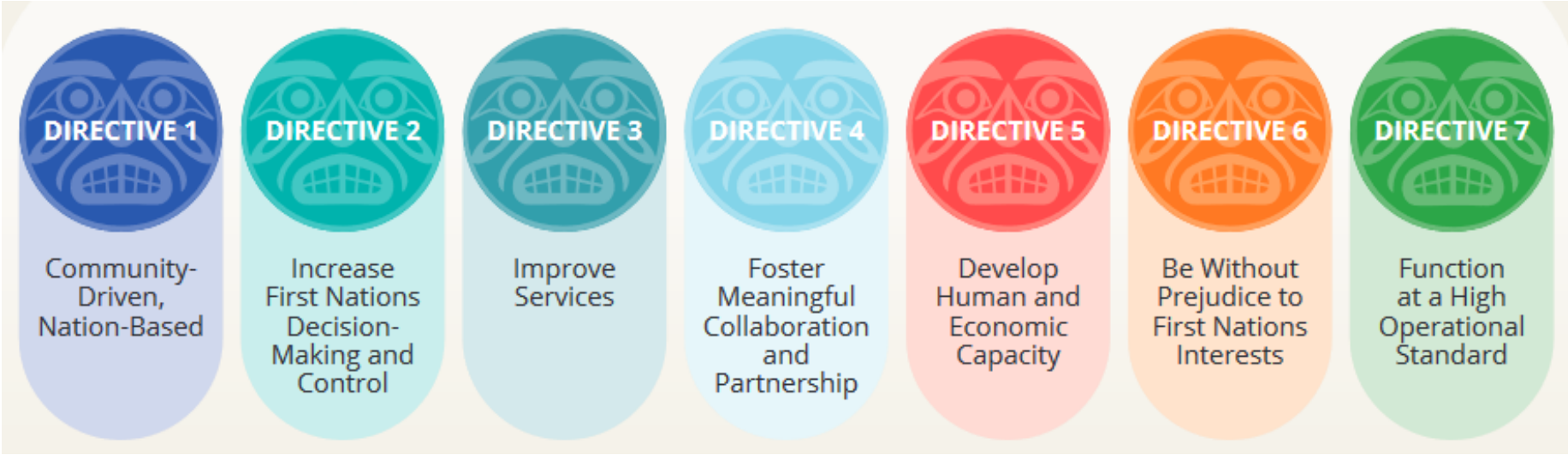
"Healthy, Self-Determining and Vibrant First Nations Children, Families and Communities in BC"



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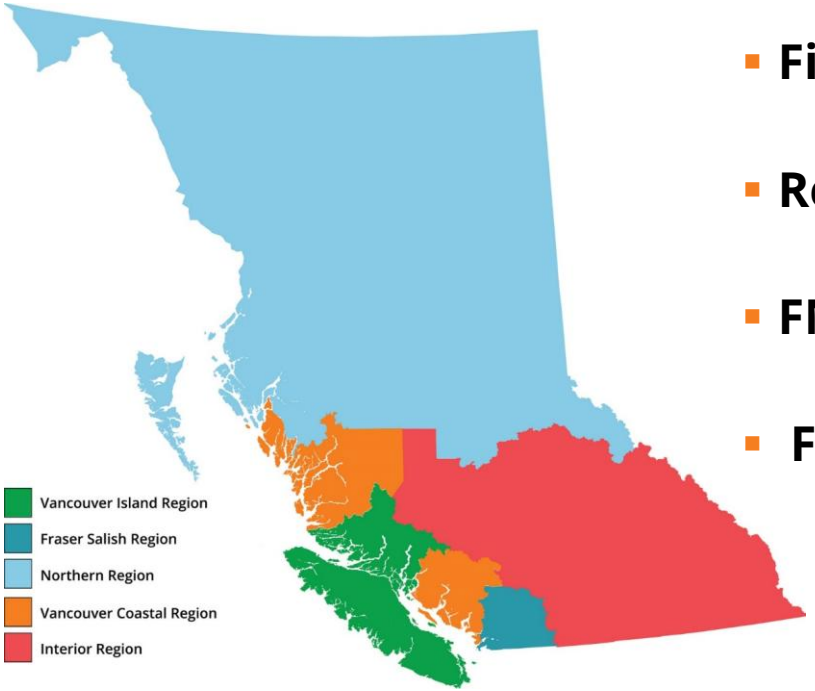
FNHA Structure



- **First Nations Communities**
  - Self-governing, determine health priorities
- **Regional Caucuses (Governance)**
  - Chiefs and Health Leaders set regional direction
- **FNHA Regional Teams (Operations)**
  - Implement services aligned to regional priorities
- **FNHA Province and Executive Team**
  - Develops frameworks, tools, policy, and strategy for province wide support

See FNHA's Programs and Services Compendium

FNHA Approaches

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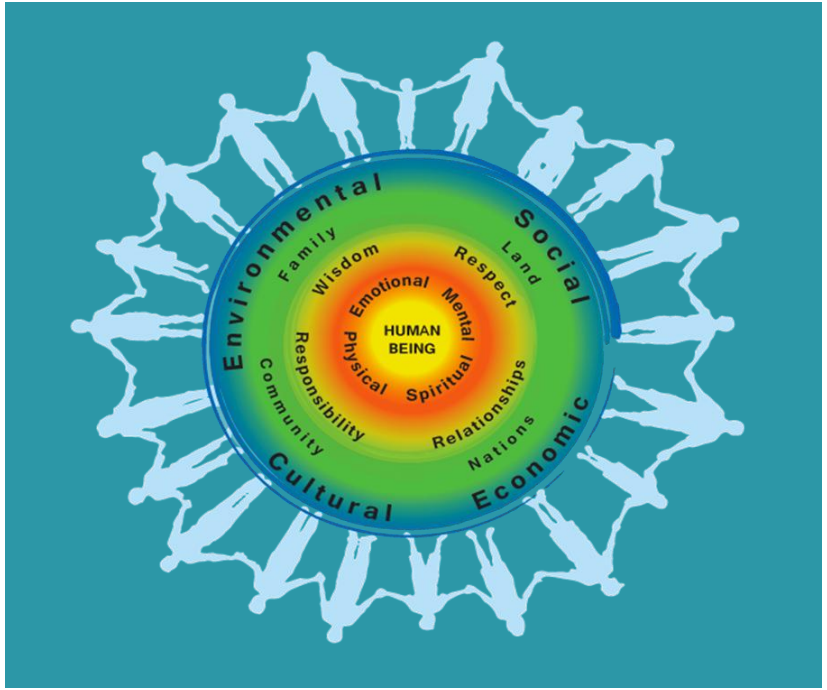

First Nations perspectives on health and wellness

- A visual expression of the First Nations perspective on wellness
- Passed down from Elders and traditional knowledge keepers
- Wholistic view of health
- Grounded in culture and traditions
- Relational – trust and respect
- Community-driven, Nation-based
- Meeting communities/Nations where they are at

Provincial EPHS Team

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VACANT
Coordinator, Health Eating & Food Security

Steven Brown
Research and Data Management
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Provincial EPHS Team Function & Projects

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DRINKING WATER SAFETY PROGRAM

INDIGENOUS CLIMATE HEALTH ACTION PROGRAM

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS PROGRAM

HEALTHY EATING AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

IMPACT ASSESSMENT / HEALING INDICATORS

WE ALL TAKE CARE OF THE HARVEST (WATCH)

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING

Regional EPHS Services

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WASTEWATER

HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

FACILITY INSPECTIONS

FOOD SAFETY & SECURITY

HEALTHY HOUSING

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Overview of BC Impact Assessment Process

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Legislative Foundation

- BC Environmental Assessment Act (2018)
- Aligned with DRIPA (2019) (Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act)

Key Features

- Mandatory Early Engagement
- Options for Indigenous-led / Collaborative Assessments
- Holistic Scope: Health, Cultural, Social
- Regional & Cumulative Effects
- Lifecycle Oversight & Monitoring

Gaps Between BC EA Act and Practice

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First Nations can lead the environmental assessment process through a substituted or joint assessment, as enabled under Section 41 of BC's EAA	• Technical expertise requirements are high; Nations have not been provided resources or have limited resources to lead or meaningfully participate in IAs
Formal role as decision-making partners through UNDRIP	• Substitution or co-leadership is rarely used due to structural complexity
Possible access to capacity funding	• Funding is limited and project-based → Doesn't build lasting capacity
Transparent attempts to seek consensus with Nations (Section 16)	• True consent is not required, only an attempt to reach consensus • Final decision-making authority remains with the Crown

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FNHA in Impact Assessment

Bridge the gap between First Nations health and environmental assessments

Advance IAs led by First Nations that center First Nations Perspectives on Health and Wellness

Support First Nations-led IAs grounded in culturally relevant health indicators

FNHA Past Involvement in IA

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Project	Location	Who requested involvement?	Level of FNHA Involvement	Key Activities
Mount Polley Mine	100-150 km SE of Prince George Xat'sull, T'exelcemc and Lhatko Dene First Nations	Several local First Nations	Planning & Scoping	Identified impacted communities, and potential health risks.
Ajax Mine	Near Kamloops (interior BC) on Secwepemc and Nlaka'pamux Nation traditional territory	First Nation	Strategic Advocacy	Submitted comments during public commenting period to call for the completion of an HIA from a FN perspective
Roberts Bank Terminal 2	Port of Vancouver-46 FN identified by IAAC	BCEAO, BC Ministry of Health	Technical Advisory	Provided data from a FNHA health study with Tsawwassen FN

FNHA's Role in IA: Scope & Considerations

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- Advisory, Not Decision-Making
- FNHA does not get involved in IA unless requested by a First Nation
- FNHA's work must align with First Nations' self-determination in IA, and our 7 Directives
- Consulting FNHA ≠ Meeting the Duty to Consult First Nations

The Future of FNHA in IA

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Develop clear language on how, why, and when FNHA will get involved in IAs (in progress)

Develop tools and resources for First Nations communities and FNHA regional teams for completing health impact assessments (in progress)

Analyze gaps and survey First Nations communities in BC on the needs for participation in IA and HIA, as well as develop plans for addressing these gaps collaboratively.

Develop and provide training and capacity development at the FNHA and within communities on IA and HIA

Create a team focused on HIA and IA that brings experts to support HIA requests

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Thank you!

Gayaxsixa
(Hailhzaqvla)

Huy tseep q'u
(Stz'uminus)

Haa'wa
(Haida)

Gilakas'la
(Kwakwaka'wakw)

Kleco Kleco
(Nuu-Chah-Nulth)

limləmt
(Syilx)

Kw'as ho:y
(Halq'eméyem)

Huy ch q'u
(Hul'qumi'num)

Kʷukʷstéyp
(Nlaka'pamux)

kukwstsétsemc
(Secwépemc)

HÍSW̱K̲E
(Senćoŧen)

Hu sukiɬq̓ukni
(Ktunaxa)

Snachailya
(Dãkelh Dene)

Mussi Cho
(Kaska Dena)

Tooyksim niin
(Nisga'a)

Kukwstum̓úlhkal̓ap
(northern St'át'imc)

Čɛčɛhaθɛč
(Ayajuthem)

Sechanalyagh
(Tŝilhqot'in)

T'oyaxsim nisim
(Gitxsan)

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Contact Information

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QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD

DISCUSSION PERIOD

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GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATOR

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CLOSING REMARKS

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